

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 12539 231251Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 231217Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6782
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12539

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: ASMARA KIDNAPPING OF HONORARY BRITISH CONSUL

REF: ASMARA 0893

EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON NEW KIDNAPPING:

1. UNCLEAR WHY BRITISH CITIZEN WAS SELECTED BY ELF.
 2. ELF PROBABLY WISHES TO SHOW ABILITY TO KIDNAP IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, AND THEREBY EMBARRASS EPMG. RIVALRY WITH PLF IS ALSO LIKELY FACTOR.
 3. BRITISH CONSUL IS OLDER MAN FOR WHOM TREKKING AROUND HILLS OF ERITREA MAY BE VERY SEVERE PHYSICAL STRAIN.
 4. EMBASSY WILL NEED INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW MUCH TO TELL BRITISH EMBASSY ADDIS ABOUT USG EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF KAGNEW FOUR.
 5. WE UNCLEAR ON BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARD ACCEDING TO RANSOM DEMANDS. UNITED FRONT WITH USG ON NON-PAYMENT WOULD SEEM TO BE STRONGLY INDICATED, AND THEREFORE FULL BRIEFING OF BRITS BY USG ON WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR KAGNEW FOUR AND WHAT WE HAVE TOLD OTHERS WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE. DEPT SHOULD TELL US HOW MUCH WE CAN SAY HERE, AND HOW MUCH IS PASSED TO BRITS IN WASHINGTON OR LONDON.
- HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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